**DRAFT MINUTES- MCCPTA Board of Directors Meeting**

**January 13, 2021**

**Zoom meeting**

Cynthia Simonson, MCCPTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. A quorum was present. The agenda was approved. The December minutes were approved, with one modification- VP Ed report- American Government exam is waived, not World Studies.

**Updates**

Update on MD PTA- Cynthia Simonson

For more information, see the “National PTA Status Report” in the folder for this meeting.

MD PTA released a message that indicated the option to conduct virtual meetings, with further instructions to be provided later. *(Post meeting note- Virtual Meeting Guidelines were released on 1/21/21)*

A few outstanding items regarding MD PTA-

There are currently three officers- Carrera, Higginbotham, Butz. Do they meet the officer qualifications and were they voted in using appropriate procedures?

Bank account- Due to concerns during the past two administrations, it seems appropriate to have oversight of the bank account. We are waiting for information regarding this oversight, to provide assurance to local PTAs before they submit dues to MD PTA (which includes National PTA dues).

Plan for cluster/BOE meetings- Cynthia Simonson

Each cluster meets with the BOE every four years; 6-7 are scheduled each year. It is an opportunity to showcase cluster activities and raise cluster-specific concerns with our elected officials.

In Spring 2020, 3 Clusters were able to hold their meetings with the BOE and 3 Clusters were canceled/postponed (Blake, Poolesville, Gaithersburg).

The plan-

All clusters will shift one calendar year – the 3 clusters from last year will take April 15, 22, and May 6 dates.

7 clusters scheduled for this calendar year will be moved to Spring 2022 (Kennedy, Magruder, Wootton, Churchill, Rockville, QO and Northwood).

MCCPTA/BOE will work on using the remaining dates (Feb 2, 18, March 2 and May 20) to hold community forums on specific topic areas (e.g., SRO, recovery education, reopening).

Upcoming training opportunities-Cynthia Simonson

Nominating Committee – Yes, You Can Lead!- Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 6:30 pm (Provide information about leadership in MCCPTA and local PTAs)

BOE/Cluster Meetings – Preparing for Your Cluster- TBD

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee – Training for PTA leaders- February 24, 2021, 6:30 pm

**Officer Reports**

President- Cynthia Simonson- (See written report for details regarding ten topics)

MCCPTA Executive Committee requested follow-up from MCPS on the Ombudsman position. Many families are not aware of the role and how it should help them, particularly during an appeals process. The shared role of Ombudsman/ Chief of Staff for the Board of Education continues to be a concern.

Food security-

MCPS Policy Committee proposed a new draft policy Board Policy JPH, School Food and Nutrition Services Programs, and is seeking public comment from now until February 12, 2021. Link to the presentation reviewed by the Board on December 3, 2020 is available in the President’s Report. There is also a link for comments.

VP Educational Issues- Rodney Peele- (See written report for details)

MCPS cancelled PSAT for 11th graders that had been scheduled for January 26 (could not staff the test). If students are back in school buildings this April, then MCPS may offer an in-school SAT day for 11th graders (which could be used for merit scholarship competition in lieu of missing the PSAT this year) and an in-school PSAT day for 10th graders.

IB Organization reduced IB test content a little, and is still pondering other adaptions.

George B. Thomas Sr. Learning Academy (Saturday School) will offer some AP test preparation. AP teachers might also be compensated by MCPS to provide more tutoring and test prep outside of class hours. Details to come.

College Board is planning two alternate AP test dates (late May and early June) to allow students more time to learn full course content. College Board will provide online AP testing, too, which they did for everyone last spring.

MCPS posted a gentle comparison of student performance in middle school magnet programs and students who took magnet-level math or humanities courses in their home middle schools. MCPS posted a gentle comparison of student performance in elementary school magnet programs and students who took the Enriched Literacy Curriculum (ELC) in their home elementary schools. For both comparisons- there are links to more information in the VP Ed report.in both cases, the reports are a missed opportunity to compare the difference in student outcomes between home school courses and magnet school courses.

VP for Administrative Issues- Rochelle Fink (See written report for details)

The MCCPTA Nominating Committee sent a message with the call for candidates for next year. The upcoming training (Jan 27) will be helpful for individuals considering running for office.

The January SoCA report will be released, soon.

VP of Programs- James Modrick- (See written report for details)

Reflections adjudication started.

Awards committee is starting their work for the year.

There will be a virtual “Celebration of Excellence” in May 2021.

VP of Advocacy- Laura Stewart- (See written officers report for details)

Annapolis session began 1/13. See the Excel spreadsheet in the meeting materials (main folder, not officer folder) for the compilation of education related legislation. Green highlight = clearly align with MCCPTA priorities; yellow highlight = may align with MCCPTA priorities.

Some green (aligned) items are: (general topic, more information in the spreadsheet)

Graduation requirement, beginning in 2022-2023 school year- submit FAFSA or MSFAA (financial aid forms)

Requirement that certain discipline related reports be presented in a disaggregated format

Requirement for provision of free menstrual hygiene products in restrooms

Prohibit fees for summer school courses if student previously took the course and was not successful; the course is required for graduation

Establish model policy to support the education of pregnant students and students who are parents

Each BOE must develop a policy against the display of hate symbols

Development of early literacy and dyslexia practices

Require development of seizure action plan (training of school employees to respond)

Provision of telehealth services

Treasurer- Khristy Kartsakalis- (See written financial documents)

Current balance is $65,734.25. Outstanding checks- $1909.73. Balance on hand- $63,824.52.

MDC was sent to state of Maryland by 12/31. Sending to MD PTA.

Re-sending the financial audit to MDPTA, because we did not receive a confirmation.

Proposal of budget addendum, due to change in many activities because of virtual operations.

Celebrations:  - $18,500.00 removed from expenses to eliminate the contract for space and catering with the Universities of Shady Grove (Current Budget $20,000 -> $1500)

Reflections: - $3,000.00 removed from expenses for space rental and catering for the Reflections Showcase event. (Current Budget $4000 - >$1000)

Will be removing $19,000 from income, based off no tickets being sold ($10K), $9K from sponsorship. We have received $772.05 in sponsorships to date.

Need to increase Utilities (telephone) by another $800 to cover remainder of year on phone/internet cost -Web/EHost has gone over based off two additional auto renewal not in original forecast (goDaddy/Groups.io) – this will be deducted from the office supplies - $1400 in budget $0 spent to date; updated budget for office supplies would be $600.

Motion from Debby Orsak- Accept the budget amendments proposed by the treasurer.

Seconded by Laura Mitchell.

One question before vote- Is there still money for MCCPTA Awards? Answer- Yes, that is a separate line item.

Motion passed- 33/33

**Committees (More written reports in the meeting materials)**

Curriculum Committee- Michelle Gluck (See written report for details)

The curriculum committee report includes detailed description of concerns related to options for course load management. The topic was discussed by the board. Recommendations for the superintendent regarding the regulations on course load management are:

1. The option to take a class for credit/no credit instead of for a grade should be available for a wider range of courses.

2. The deadline to withdraw from courses needs to be relaxed.

3. Both options need to apply to first semester, in addition to second semester.

Laura Mitchell moved that a message conveying the MCCPTA BOD’s support for the above be sent to MCPS.

Second by Francesco Paganini

The motion passed. (33/33)

Operating Budget (Laura Mitchell) (See written report)

There have been requests for quality headphones with microphones, for a better virtual learning experience. We will request this item be included in the operating budget.

Suggestion related to MCCPTA budget- consider whether a Paycheck Protection Program Loan may benefit MCCPTA, in case there is less membership revenue this year and next year.

**New Business**

DEI Committee- proposal related to SROs- MCCPTA Resolution

Yvonne VanLowe, chair of the DEI committee, presented information about the SRO program. An updated version of the presentation is available in the January DA folder.

Based on the information that the committee collected and summarized, they propose:

MCCPTA rescind the 2010 Resolution on SROs because it is outdated and predates the 2018 Maryland Safe to Learn Act.

MCCPTA approve a new resolution that includes- “That the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations urge Montgomery County Public Schools to discontinue placing police officers (SROs) on every high school campus.” The proposed resolution also recommends more community discussion, better data collection, and funding towards evidence-based programs.

MCCPTA representatives have been part of the MCPS SRO workgroup since September. MCCPTA began discussing the topic in the fall and tasked the DEI committee with considering the need to change the MCCPTA resolution.

Discussion:

There was a request that perspectives be collected from all schools. In some schools, the SROs formed positive relationships with students.

Decisions need to be made based on data, not anecdotes.

Need to balance protection vs policing. What should the SRO role be in discipline?

90% of the arrests are based on calls from the schools- how does that serve the community?

County council is currently discussing the program.

The DEI made two motions regarding items to take to the delegates for a vote, after the delegates have an opportunity to discuss the topic with their local PTAs for feedback.

Motion 1- Bring the 2010 MCCPTA resolution to the delegates for discussion and to vote on rescinding it.

Yes- 22; No- 5; Abstain 3 (motion carried)

Motion 2- Present the new proposed resolution on SROs and school safety and security to the delegates for discussion and a vote.

Yes- 22; No- 8 (motion carried)

The last item- vendors- will be discussed at another meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm

Minutes submitted by Kellie Schoolar Reynolds, MCCPTA Secretary for BOD